Claims

We claim:

1. A method for treating a patient diagnosed with at least one ophthalmic disorder, wherein said method comprises administering to the patient an effective amount of a steroidal quinol that is converted to a biologically active phenolic A-ring steroid compound *in vivo*.

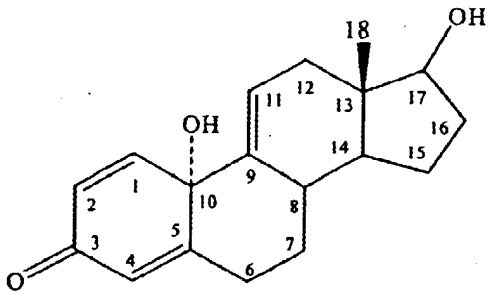
2. The method, according to claim 1, wherein the quinol is converted to the biologically active phenolic A-ring steroid compound via enzyme-catalyzed reduction.

3. The method, according to claim 2, wherein the enzyme-catalyzed reduction occurs with an oxidoreductase.

4. The method, according to claim 2, wherein the enzyme-catalyzed reduction occurs with NADH as a reducing agent.

5. The method, according to claim 2, wherein the enzyme-catalyzed reduction occurs with NADPH as a reducing agent.

6. The method, according to claim 1, wherein the steroidal quinol has the general structure



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6. The method, according to claim 5, wherein steroidal quinol is derived from the estrogen analog 3,17-dihydroxyestra-1,3,5(10),9(11)-tetraene.

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7. The method, according to claim 5, further comprising administering the quinol by a route selected from the group consisting of oral, buccal, intramuscular, transdermal, intravenous, and subcutaneous.

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8. The method, according to claim 5, wherein the ophthalmic disorders are selected from the group consisting of conjunctivitis, diabetic retinopathy, dry eye, macular degeneration, glaucoma, and cataracts.

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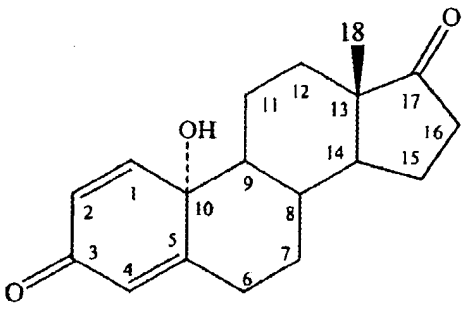
9. The method, according to claim 1, wherein the steroidal quinol has the general structure:



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10. The method, according to claim 9, further comprising administering the quinol by a route selected from the group consisting of oral, buccal, intramuscular, transdermal, intravenous, and subcutaneous.

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11. The method, according to claim 9, wherein the ophthalmic disorders are selected from the group consisting of conjunctivitis, diabetic retinopathy, dry eye, macular degeneration, glaucoma, and cataracts.

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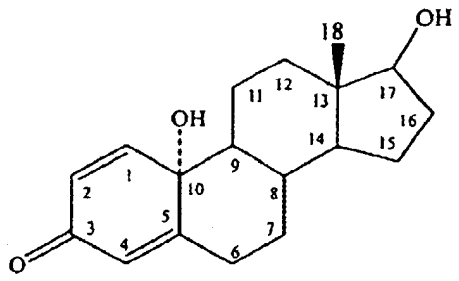
~~12.~~ The method, according to claim 1, wherein the quinol has the general structure:



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~~13.~~ The method, according to claim 12, further comprising administering the quinol by a route selected from the group consisting of oral, buccal, intramuscular, transdermal, intravenous, and subcutaneous.

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~~14.~~ The method, according to claim 12, wherein the ophthalmic disorders are selected from the group consisting of conjunctivitis, diabetic retinopathy, dry eye, macular degeneration, glaucoma, and cataracts.

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~~15.~~ The method, according to claim 1, wherein the steroidal quinol is derived from 2-(1-adamantyl)-3-hydroxyestra-1, 3, 5 (10)-trien-17-one.

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~~16.~~ The method, according to claim 1, wherein the steroidal quinol includes a polar functional group to decrease lipophilicity.

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~~17.~~ The method, according to claim 16, wherein the polar functional group is a phosphate.

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~~18.~~ The method, according to claim 16, wherein the polar functional group is an N,N,N-trialkylammonium ester.

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~~19.~~ 20. The method, according to claim 1, wherein the steroidal quinol does not confer systemic side effects.